

NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

IC/81/1007  
9 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM : Walter Elder  
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT : Revision of DCID's

*John:*

1. The time has come to consider revising the DCID series.
2. The advent of Executive Order 12333, the years of accumulated experience in conducting activities whose origins were once the subject of heated disputes, and the emergence of new trends and emphases are all factors in considering a revision of the existing DCID series.
3. As you know, the DCI has approved a new DCID for the new Technology Transfer Intelligence Committee, and we may soon have a DCID for your Intelligence Producers' Council. My role is and will be to keep track of the overall exercise and to provide advice on format.
4. Admiral Inman says we should concentrate at this time on reviewing the DCID's, leaving the role of the NSCID's as a separate issue to be taken up later. The objective is to construct a new set of DCID's which are based on the Executive Order and can stand alone.
5. I respectfully request that you initiate a review of the activities under your aegis and in which you have a stake. The review should be aimed at answering the following questions:
  - a. Do the comprehensive provisions of the Executive Order obviate the need for explicit, detailed DCID's?
  - b. Are there new activities which need to be established by new DCID's?
  - c. Which DCID's have been overtaken by events and should be rescinded?
  - d. Which DCID's require revision, major or minor?
6. I shall try to avoid at all costs the creation of a Community task force to conduct this exercise. Informal consultation will be undertaken as required; but, generally speaking, I hold the view that the DCI has the authority to issue his directives without a vast amount of formal coordination.

7. I have made my own list of those DCID's where I see your interests as involved, but I'm sure you have your own perspective on this.

8. At your early convenience, I shall be pleased to sit down with you or your designee to answer questions and to explain the overall approach in more detail. In the meantime, may I ask that I be consulted before you head into any extensive external consultation, please?

Yours toward a quiet resolution of all this



WALTER ELDER

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